



Memo

TO Georgina Moore, Secretary of the Senate

FROM Ann Messenger, Secretary
Applied Science Faculty Board

DATE May 21, 2009

SUBJECT Closure of the Centre for Water and the Environment

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Beamish-Munro Hall, Room 200
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6
Tel 613 533-2056
Fax 613 533-6500
<http://appsci.queensu.ca/>

As required under the Senate "Procedures Governing the Establishment, Reporting and Review of Research Centres, Institutes, and other entities at Queen's University", at its meeting of May 20, 2009 the Applied Science Faculty Board approved the following motion:

*That the Centre for Water and the Environment be closed officially on
June 30, 2009.*

Please refer to the attached proposal.

Ann Messenger
Secretary
Applied Science Faculty Board

Attachment: Motion

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UNIVERSITY SECRETARIAT
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Applied Science
Applied Science Faculty Board

To Members of the Applied Science Faculty Board

Motion to Close the Centre for Water and the Environment

In 2002, the Centre for Water and the Environment (CWE) was granted provisional Centre status and received formal approval in 2004 as a University-based centre reporting to VP (Research) through the Dean of Applied Science. The Centre was supported by a \$2.7M ORDCF grant awarded to Queen's, and the Universities of Toronto, Ottawa and Waterloo.

Under Senate guidelines, a Dean's Advisory Review Committee was established in the Fall of 2008 to review the current operations and future prospects of the Centre and to recommend renewal or closure of the Centre. The Scientific Director for the Centre has left Queen's and there is no longer sufficient funding for the Centre to continue its operations. After careful deliberations, the committee has recommended that the Centre not be renewed. The assets and liabilities of CWE will be assumed by the Department of Civil Engineering.

The research activities associated with CWE have been exceptional and the "deliverables" required under the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (ORDCF) agreement, were achieved. The final annual report and audit were submitted February 2008 and accepted by ORDCF.

I wish to serve notice that at the May 20, 2009 meeting of Faculty Board, I will move:

That the Centre for Water and the Environment, be closed officially on June 30, 2009.

Kimberly A. Woodhouse
Dean
Faculty of Applied Science

5-Year Review Centre for Water and the Environment (CWE)

Dr. Brian Surgenor
Associate Dean, Research, Graduate Studies and External Affairs
Faculty of Applied Science

Dr. Ronald Neufeld
Professor, Chemical Engineering &
Chair, Dean's Advisory Review Committee

Executive Summary

An Advisory Review Committee (ARC) was appointed in October 2008 by the Dean of Applied Science, Dr. Kimberly Woodhouse, to review the Centre for Water and the Environment (CWE) and make recommendations with regard to its future. The committee met four times during its deliberations, and reviewed and discussed the relevant documentation that was requested and provided by the outgoing Director of the CWE. As part of the review, the Committee interviewed key players of the Centre, including current and past members.

Even though the CWE has been successful in attracting significant research funding since inception, the retirement of the Co-Director in 2005, left a void in the management of the Centre. The CWE Board has not met since 2004 and the CWE Advisory Committee appeared inactive since that time. Some of the CWE members interviewed, had little or no involvement with the CWE since its inception. A university-wide network which was envisioned as part of the Centre mandate has not been realized. A funding request in 2008 to VP (Research) for funds to support the salary of the CWE core staff was an indication that the CWE was facing financial challenges. With the departure of the Scientific Director in December 2008, the centre was without academic leadership, had no staff and there was insufficient funding for the centre to continue its operations. Consequently, the ARC recommended against the renewal of the CWE mandate.

Finally, the Advisory Review Committee heard from members of the CWE community who strongly supported the need for some form of Queen's structure with a focus on water and the environment. Therefore, the ARC also recommended that the Dean take steps to identify and bring the community together to discuss opportunities for a new initiative, with renewed vision, mission, leadership, and with broader University-wide support.